

Oversight Plan
Committee on the Budget
U.S. House of Representatives

107th Congress

Resolved: That the Committee on the Budget, pursuant to clause 2(d) of House Rule X, and Committee Rule 22, adopt as the Oversight Plan of the Committee on the Budget for the 107th Congress the following:

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION/OVERSIGHT

Under clause 2(d) of House Rule X, each committee is required to adopt and submit to the Committees on Government Reform and House Administration an oversight plan by February 15 of the first session of each Congress.

Under clause 1(e)(1) of House Rule X, the primary responsibility of the Budget Committee is the development of a concurrent budget resolution that sets spending and revenue levels in aggregate and across 20 budget functions. These budget functions encompass all Federal programs or activities other than those that are defined as off-budget, such as Social Security and the Postal Service, and those that are considered nonbudgetary, such as the Federal Reserve.

Although the subject matter of the Federal budget is expansive, the Budget Committee's formal oversight responsibility focuses on law governing the budget process and the agencies responsible for administering elements of those laws. Under clauses 1(e)(2) and (3) of House Rule X, the major laws falling within its oversight are the Budget and Accounting Act of 1920, the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and the Emergency Balanced Budget and Deficit Control Act of 1985. The two agencies with primary responsibility for administering elements of these laws and hence which fall under the Budget Committee's jurisdiction are the Office of Management and Budget [OMB] and the Congressional Budget Office [CBO].

In addition to these general oversight responsibilities, the Committee has the special oversight responsibility under clause 3 of House rule X to study the effect of budget outlays of existing and proposed legislation and to request and evaluate continuing studies of tax expenditures.

OVERSIGHT PLAN FOR 107TH CONGRESS

Budget Priorities

In the process of developing the annual concurrent budget resolution, the Budget Committee – pursuant to section 301(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 – will hold hearings and receive testimony from Members of Congress, Cabinet-level and other Federal officials, State and local officials, and expert witnesses to review the President’s budget submissions and other alternatives to programs and activities.

The Committee will study the budgetary impact of existing law and proposed legislation, as well as government regulation, on government spending.

The Committee will draw on the authorizing committee’s Views and Estimates on the President’s budget, which are submitted to it pursuant to section 301(d) of the Congressional Budget Act, to coordinate its oversight activities with other committees.

Pursuant to section 312 of the Congressional Budget Act, the Committee shall determine the various budgetary levels for purposes of enforcing the Concurrent Resolution and other matters related to the Congressional Budget Act.

Oversight of the Budgetary Process

The Budget Committee will provide ongoing oversight of the Office of Management and Budget’s implementation of budget submission, control, execution, and enforcement procedures under the Budget and Accounting Act of 1920, the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990, and the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, and other applicable laws.

The Budget Committee will assess the extent to which both the President’s budget submissions and the budget resolutions for fiscal years 2002 and 2003 comply with the discretionary spending limits and Pay-As-You-Go [PAYGO] requirements that were extended in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

In addition, the Committee will closely monitor adjustments to the discretionary spending limits, reclassifications of budget accounts, reestimates of the subsidies of credit programs, consistency in cost estimates for direct spending and tax bills, compliance with the Emergency Balanced Budget and Deficit Control Act in the development of baseline budget projections, changes in spend-out rates for discretionary programs, and implementation of performance plans.

Pursuant to Rule X, clause 2(d)(1), the Budget Committee will review the agencies under its jurisdiction for Federal rules, regulations, statutes, and court decisions that are ambiguous, arbitrary, or impose a severe financial burden on individuals.

Enforcement of the Congressional Budget Act

The Committee will work with the Appropriations and the authorizing committees to ensure that spending and tax legislation does not breach the appropriate levels in the budget resolution, as required under sections 302(f) and 311(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

Budget Process Reform

Building on legislation reported by the Budget Committee in the 106th Congress, the Committee will consider proposals to improve the ways in which the Congress and the President develop and enforce budgetary decisions.

Direct Spending and Tax Incentives

The Committee will request and evaluate continuing studies of tax incentives and direct spending by the Federal Government, and whether they are the most appropriate and efficient means to achieve specified public policy goals.

Monetary Policy

The Budget Committee will study monetary policy and its effects on the Federal budget. Among the first hearings held by the Committee will be the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, who will discuss the relationship between monetary policy and the Federal budget.

Long-Term Budget Implications

The Budget Committee will begin to focus on long-term budget issues, including long-term budget, economic and budget trends, Federal programs with long-term commitments, the adequacy of forecasting models, and options for changing the ways in which the Federal Government budgets for such commitments.

OVERSIGHT SCHEDULE

First Session (2001)

February 1, 2001-Briefing on CBO's economic and budget outlook for fiscal years 2002 through 2011-Assistant Director of CBO.

February 7, 2001-Hearing to learn the views of freshman Members of Congress on budget priorities.

February 14, 2001-Briefing on long-term budget trends-Comptroller General.

Spring 2001-Hearing on the President's budget submission for fiscal year 2002 budget-Director of OMB.

Spring 2001-Hearings reviewing the Administration's proposed tax policies and spending levels for selected agencies for fiscal year 2002-Selected Secretaries and Agency heads.

Spring 2001-Hearing on monetary policy and its relationship to the Federal budget-Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board.

Spring 2001-Hearing on budget priorities for fiscal year 2002-Members of Congress.

Summer 2001-Hearing(s) to examine the role and performance of CBO, including the process CBO follows to provide cost estimates and budgetary projections, the criteria CBO applies in personnel decisions, etc.-CBO officials, expert witnesses.

Summer 2001-Hearing(s) to examine the role and performance of OMB-OMB officials, expert witnesses.

Summer 2001-Hearing(s) on issues related to the budget process, including the extension of appropriations caps and PAY-AS-YOU-GO requirements and options for structural changes in the budget process.

Fall 2001-Hearing(s) on CBO and OMB's mid session updates of their economic and budget projections for fiscal years 2002 through 2011-Directors of OMB and CBO.

Fall 2001-Hearing(s) on various long-term issues-expert witnesses and agency officials.

Fall 2001-End of session review of fiscal year 2002 budget cycle.

Late Fall 2001-At the request of the Chairman, the Government Accounting Office (GAO) will assess OMB's compliance with budget requirements set forth in the Budget and Accounting Act, the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act and elsewhere during the first session of the 107th Congress.

Second Session (2002)

Winter 2002-Hearing to review monetary policy and the Federal budget-Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board.

Winter 2002-Hearing on CBO's economic and budget projections for fiscal years 2003 through 2012-Director of CBO.

Winter 2002-Hearing on the President's budget submission for fiscal year 2003 budget-Director of OMB.

Winter 2002-Hearing on the President's budget submission and other budget priorities for fiscal year 2003-Members of Congress.

Spring 2002-Receive and print views and estimates of authorizing committees on the budget for fiscal year 2003.

Spring 2002-Hearings reviewing the Administration's proposed tax policies and spending levels for selected agencies for fiscal year 2003-Selected Secretaries and Agency heads.

Spring 2002-Hearing(s) on the President's budget submission for fiscal year 2003, including overall spending and revenue levels and the distribution of resources across various agencies-selected agency heads and Cabinet secretaries followed by panels of issue area experts.

Summer 2002-Hearing(s) on potential structural changes in the budget process.

Summer 2002-Hearing(s) on issues related to the working poor.

Summer/Fall 2002-On-going hearing(s) on various long-term issues-expert witnesses and agency officials.

Fall 2002-Hearing on CBO and OMB's mid-session updates of their respective budget and economic projections for fiscal years 2003 through 2012-Directors of OMB and CBO.

Fall 2002-End of session review of fiscal year 2002 budget cycle.

Late fall 2002-At the request of the Chairman, GAO will prepare a report on its assessment of OMB's compliance with budget enforcement requirements during the second session of the 107th Congress.